WAID - AUGUSTYN - KITSON - BAIR

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

DC

NO. 7

JUL '98

JLA™ YEAR ONE

WAR MACHINE!

GOTHAM CITY EXECUTIVE CLUB

SIR, I--I'M SORRY. I CANNOT LET YOU INSIDE.

THE OTHERS ARE... IRREGULAR ENOUGH... BUT AT LEAST THEY ARE MODERATELY CLOTHED.

I'M AFRAID THE GOTHAM CITY EXECUTIVE CLUB DEMANDS A JACKET AND TIE.

VERY WELL.

HOW IS

THIS?

THANK YOU.

THE AMERICAN WAY

SIMON CARR-- ONLY YOU KNOW THE SECRETS OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!

TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW!

MARK WAID/BRIAN AUGUSTYN/BARRY KITSON-STORYTELLERS ★ MICHAEL BAIR-INKER
KEN LOPEZ-LETTERER ★ PAT GARRAHY-COLORIST ★ HEROIC AGE-SEPARATIONS ★ PETER TOMASI-EDITOR

EASE UP, GL. MR. CARR, WE'RE SORRY WE HAVE TO APPROACH YOU LIKE THIS--BUT WE DO WANT ANSWERS.

YOU SAID BEFORE THAT YOU'RE THE MIDDLEMAN ADMINISTRATING THE FUNDS OF OUR MYSTERIOUS FINANCIER...

...BUT YOU WOULDN'T SAY WHO IS FUNDING US... AND THAT'S NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE.

FRANKLY, WE'VE NOT HAD MUCH TIME TO BE SUSPICIOUS...

...BUT WE'VE BEEN TALKING... AND WE'RE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT. FOR ALL WE KNOW, VANDAL SAVAGE COULD BE HOLDING THE PURSE STRINGS!

WE *WANT* TO TRUST YOU, CARR. WE'RE EVEN LETTING YOUR NEPHEW, *SNAPPER*, ACT AS OUR *MAINTENANCE KID*.

MAN.

WHATEVER. BUT I'LL BE *HONEST*... I'M NOT *COMFORTABLE* CONTINUING UNDER A CLOUD OF *SUSPICION*.

FLASH... CANARY... *AQUAMAN*... ALL OF YOU...

... I'VE COVERED THIS *BEFORE*. I *CANNOT* REVEAL YOUR SPONSOR'S NAME. THAT IS A *FIRM CONDITION* OF HIS *OFFER*.

ALL I *CAN* SAY IS THAT THE GENTLEMAN *BEHIND* YOUR FINANCING...

"...IS A MAN OF *GREAT CHARACTER* AND *ALTRUISTIC MOTIVE*."

SAYS *YOU*, CARR.

BRUCE, GET OFF THE *PHONE*! YOU'RE *MISSING* THE *FLOOR SHOW*!

...YOURS IS A VERY INTERESTING *PROPOSAL*, MR. QUEEN--VERY WELL, *OLIVER*.

PERHAPS WE *CAN* DO BUSINESS TOGETHER. STAY IN *TOUCH*.

C'MON, WAYNE! *FIVE THOUSAND* SAYS I NAIL THE *BLONDE* BEFORE *YOU* DO.

AND *YOU* ARE...?

BRUCE WAYNE, MEET *MAXWELL LORD*... A BIT OF *NEW MONEY* VISITING GOTHAM.

AH. *NEW* MONEY. THAT WOULD EXPLAIN HIS *VIGOR*, EH, CHATSWORTH?

HEH! *INDEED*! FANCIES HIMSELF SOMEWHAT OF A *MOVER* AND A *SHAKER*, HE DOES!

MUCH LIKE MR. WAYNE *HIMSELF*, I BELIEVE.

WHAT *ABOUT* IT, BRUCE? ARE *YOU* THE *MYSTERY FINANCIER* THEY'RE BUZZING ABOUT?

HARDLY, MR. LORD. FRANKLY, I DON'T PAY MUCH *ATTENTION* TO WHERE MY MONEY GOES. THAT'S WHAT I HAVE *PEOPLE* FOR.

I WILL SAY THIS, THOUGH. WHOEVER HEADQUARTERED THOSE RUFFIANS AWAY FROM GOTHAM DID US ALL A FAVOR.

AS IF WE'RE NOT PLAGUED ENOUGH BY THAT HORRIBLE BAT CREATURE RUMORED TO STALK THE NIGHTS... FIVE MORE IN ANY WAY LIKE HIM WOULD ONLY INVITE TROUBLE.

I SHOULD SAY! CAN YOU IMAGINE THE FALL IN PROPERTY VALUES WERE A MARTIAN TO LIVE HERE?

OH, STUFF A SOCK IN IT, CHATSFOOT!

WHY, I NEVER--!

THEN TRY IT SOMETIME. WITH CHOCOLATE SAUCE.

BELIEVE ME, I WANT THE JLA AS CLOSE TO ME AS POSSIBLE. I RATHER LIKE THE IDEA OF A JUSTICE LEAGUE. JUST IMAGINE.

IN THE RIGHT HANDS, WITH THE RIGHT GUIDANCE... THEY COULD BE AN ARMY TO CHANGE THE WORLD...

...ALL I CAN ASK IS THAT YOU BELIEVE ME. YOU'RE IN NO DANGER OF BEING COMPROMISED.

WE CAN LEAVE. HE IS TELLING THE TRUTH.

I DON'T KNOW, J'ONN. HOW CAN WE BE SURE?

I READ HIS MIND.

YOU'RE A TELEPATH?

J'ONN, YOU SHOULD HAVE *WARNED* US OF THAT.

EVERY TIME WE THINK WE *KNOW* YOU, YOU PULL OUT ANOTHER *SURPRISE* SUPER-POWER.

I'M QUITE *CERTAIN* I MENTIONED IT WHEN WE FIRST *MET*.

WELL... *MAYBE*. BUT IT'S STILL *CREEPY*, J'ONN. IS THAT *IT* FOR THE *MARTIAN ABILITIES*?

YOU ARE NOW AWARE OF ALL OF THEM, YES.

HOW *COMFORTING*.

WHATEVER. THIS IS WHERE I SPLIT *OFF*. I HAVE TO GET TO *WORK*... AS, I'M SURE, DO THE *REST* OF YOU.

BUT *YOU* PROBABLY *KNEW* THAT, DIDN'T YOU.

LIGHTEN UP, *GL*. I'M *SURE* J'ONN WOULDN'T INVADE OUR *PRIVATE THOUGHTS*... RIGHT, J'ONN?

OF COURSE NOT. I... *APOLOGIZE* FOR FOSTERING YOUR *PARANOIA*. THAT WAS NOT MY *INTENT*.

J'ONN, IT'S NOT *PARANOIA*, IT'S...

OH, NEVER *MIND*. APOLOGY *ACCEPTED*. LATER, ALL...

YOU WANT TO TALK, MOTHER?

CALL AN OPERATOR!

SLAM!

:SIGH:

MAY I HELP YOU...?

OH! HELLO, MIKE!

DINAH. GOT TIRED OF WALKING THE BEAT, THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE SOME COFFEE. WHAT'S ALL THE YELLING ABOUT?

FOR SUCH A SMALL GIRL, YOU'VE SURE GOT A VOICE ON YOU...

OH. YOU HEARD THAT. SORRY.

IT WAS JUST MY MOM. YOU MET HER. SHE'S BEEN IN THE STORE. USED TO OWN IT, IN FACT.

FAMILY SQUABBLE? I DON'T MEAN TO PRY, BUT--

SHE HIT ME WITH THIS BOMBSHELL THE OTHER DAY. TURNS OUT SHE...SHE...

THERE'S NO ONE HERE BUT US, DINAH. YOU CAN TELL ME.

I CAN, CAN'T I? I SEE YOU MAYBE TEN MINUTES A DAY.. BUT IT'S LIKE YOU REALLY KNOW ME.

'CAUSE I'M A GOOD LISTENER. SPEAK.

TURNS OUT, YEARS AGO, MOM HAD AN AFFAIR. CHEATED ON MY FATHER WITH A FAMILY FRIEND. DAD DIDN'T LIVE TO FIND OUT... BUT I DID.

FAMILY FRIEND. SOMEONE YOU KNOW?

THOUGHT I KNEW. THAT'S PART OF THE PROBLEM. I ALWAYS WORSHIPPED MOM'S FRIENDS. THEY WERE LIKE UNCLES TO ME... WHITE KNIGHTS.

IT HURTS TO LEARN THAT THEY'RE--

HUMAN?

DON'T DEFEND THEM. DON'T YOU HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE AREN'T WHAT THEY SEEM TO BE?

YOU'LL *FORGIVE* ME, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER YOU AND YOUR MOM HAVING THE *WARMEST* RELATIONSHIP *BEFORE*.

FUNNY. YOU'D *THINK* WE'D BE CLOSE AS *SISTERS*. HELL, SHE *WANTED* A *CARBON COPY* OF HERSELF RIGHT FROM THE *START*.

PRETTY BIRD FLORIST

Dinah Drake Lance

CARBON COPY, HUH?

PRETTY BIRD FLORIST

Dinah Laurel Lance

WELL, TO A *DEGREE*. AND THAT'S WHERE IT GETS *SCHIZO*. MOM HAD... *ANOTHER SIDE* TO HER LIFE. A ROLE *OUTSIDE* THE FLOWER SHOP.

WHAT DID SHE--?

DOESN'T MATTER. SHE WAS *GREAT* AT IT... IT *FULFILLED* HER... AND MORE AND MORE, SHE NEGLECTED THE PART OF HER THAT BELONGED *HERE*, IN *THIS* PLACE.

SHE DIDN'T DO *JUSTICE* TO *THIS* SIDE OF HERSELF... SO SHE PASSED *THAT* RESPONSIBILITY TO *ME* BY GIVING ME THE *STORE*... BY STICKING ME WITH *HER NEGLECTED IDENTITY*.

YOU SAID SHE HAD A LIFE *OUTSIDE* THIS. COULDN'T YOU HAVE FOLLOWED IN *THOSE* FOOTSTEPS?

GOD, I *WANTED* TO. BUT SHE WOULDN'T *HEAR* OF IT. SHE *ORDERED* ME TO BE *HERE*.

SO, FINALLY...

...I DID IT *ANYWAY*.

I FIGURED.

REBELLION. OLDEST DAUGHTER TRICK IN THE *WORLD*. SHE WAS *PROUD* OF HER *OTHER* SIDE, SO *DESPITE* HER PROTESTATIONS, *THAT'S* THE SIDE I ELECTED TO *EMULATE*.

YOU WANTED HER *APPROVAL*.

HERS AND THAT OF ALL HER *FRIENDS*, ALL MY *UNCLES*.

I WANTED THEM *ALL* TO BE PROUD OF ME...SO I TOOK ON *HER ROLE*.

FUNNY THING *IS*, THOUGH... I'M BEGINNING TO *REALIZE* THAT IT'S *NOT* A ROLE. THAT OTHER *SIDE*... *THAT'S* US. THAT'S *ME*. THE *REAL* ME.

THIS...THE DOWDY *FLORIST*, THE NINE-TO-FIVE *DAY*... *THAT'S* THE *ROLE*. IT HAS ITS *PLACE*, I *LIKE* THE *STORE*... BUT...

...BUT IT'S NOT *ALL* OF YOU. YOU WANT *MY* ADVICE?

BE TRUE TO *YOURSELF*. DECIDE *ONCE AND FOR ALL* WHICH IS THE *DISGUISE*.

GOOD TIP. YOU *ARE* A GOOD LISTENER. THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER MAN I CAN *TALK* TO ABOUT THIS...

UH-OH! DINAH'S GOT A *SWEETIE* SOMEWHERE!

I DO *NOT*! THERE'S JUST THIS... *GUY* I KNOW. PART OF THIS *GROUP* I GET TOGETHER WITH. HE'S...

...WELL, LET'S JUST SAY HE'S *QUICK ON HIS FEET*, AND I *ADMIRE* THAT.

HOW *SERIOUSLY*?

I'M STILL *DECIDING*.

HELLO, MA'AM. CAN I *HELP* YOU...?

BLACK CA

STRANGE. I FEEL... GUILTY.

ABOUT INVADING THEIR *LIVES*...OR ABOUT SOMETHING *ELSE?*

FLASH

BLACK CANARY

ABOUT MANIPULATING THEIR *TRUST*, PERHAPS. DOES THAT *MATTER*, THOUGH?

...WHEN THERE'S THIS MUCH AT *STAKE?*

BLACK CANARY

FLASH

GREEN

HOLOGRAM ON.

MORE DIRT ON THE ENEMY?

INDEED. WE HAVE OUR EYES ON THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, AND THEY DON'T EVEN REALIZE IT. KUDOS TO US.

LOCUS UBER ALLES, EH? TO THINK...TEN YEARS OF PLANNING AT LAST CULMINATING IN SUCCESS...

INDEED. WE AWAIT ONLY THE FINAL TEST.

WE'VE REFINED THE ANDROID TECHNOLOGY... WE'VE MASTERED THE ALIEN DNA WE STOLE FROM THE JLA...

...WE'VE PERFECTED THE TRANSFER OF HUMAN TISSUE TO LABORATORY-CREATED LIFE...

...EVERYTHING'S IN PLACE. NOW, WE HAVE ONLY TO SEE IF--

FA-THOOM!

RWRAWWWR!

GOOD LORD, RALPH! YOU SCARED US TO DEATH!

SORRY, JACK. JUST FOOLING AROUND.

BUT LOOK AT ME! IT WORKS! THE GENEGRAFTING... THE BRAIN TRANSFER... IT ALL WORKS!

ATTENTION, EVERYONE! TODAY, WE CELEBRATE! VICTORY IS AT LAST AT HAND!

WE FINALLY HAVE THE POWER TO BUILD NEW HOST BODIES! IN FORMS SUCH AS THESE, WE AND WE ALONE WILL SURVIVE THE COMING HOLOCAUST!

CLINK!

ACTIVATE THE OMEGA PHASE-- AND PREPARE FOR THE END OF THE WORLD!

NOT SO FAST. ARE YOU CERTAIN WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?

NOT ANYMORE, ANDERSON. WHILE WE PREPARE FOR ARMAGEDDON...

"...I TRUST THEIR OTHER ENEMIES WILL BE KEEPING THEM QUITE BUSY..."

Over the course of a few short weeks, this new "**Justice League of America**" has conquered a **number** of challenges.

Whether fighting the **Invisible Destroyer**...

...warring against **Gorilla Grodd**....

...putting the freeze on the **Icicle**...

...or paralyzed by the **Phantom Doom**...

"... THESE FIVE HEROES HAVE PROVEN THEIR METTLE *TIME* AND *AGAIN.*"

"WORKING OUT OF THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN..."

"...IN..."

YOU KNOW... I HAVE *NO IDEA.*

DAILY PLANET

I'M *SURE* I'VE SPOTTED THEM IN THE *NEW ENGLAND* AREA. A FAST *TELESCOPIC SCAN* MIGHT FIND THEM IF THEY'RE *AROU--*

GREAT SCOTT!

KENT! THE PLANET GOES TO *PRESS* IN *TWELVE MINUTES!* WHERE'S THAT PIECE ON THE--?

RIGHT HERE, MR. WHITE-- BUT *HOLD* IT! I'VE GOT A LEAD ON A *NEW DEVELOPMENT!*

HOLD IT? ARE YOU *JOKING?* KENT?

KENT, GET *BACK* HERE! *KENT!*

...FOR *SUPERMAN!*

SORRY, PERRY... BUT *CLARK KENT* WON'T BE MUCH *USE* AGAINST WHAT HE JUST *SAW.*

THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB...

WE--WE'RE ON AN ALIEN WORLD? WHAT--HOW--?

XOTAR STRUCK AGAIN! SOMEHOW, HE TELEPORTED US HERE! HOW WILL WE GET BACK?

ONE PROBLEM AT A TIME, PEOPLE!

WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FINDING OUR WAY HOME--

--NOT IF THIS ALIEN STAMPEDE TAKES US OUT FIRST!

FOOLS.

I USED NOT A TELEPORTER--BUT AN ILLUSION CASTER!

THEY DON'T REALIZE IT--BUT THEY'RE NOT BATTLING CREATURES! THEY'RE DESTROYING THEMSELVES!

THESE... THINGS AREN'T FALLING! THIS IS A TOUGH FIGHT!

IT'S ABOUT TO GET TOUGHER!

LOOK! UP IN THE SKY!

WATCH OUT! ITS EYES LOOK RED-HOT! IF IT'S BLASTING SOME SORT OF HEAT RAY, IT COULD--

NO!

NOOOOO!

FLAAK!

--COULD BE HERE TO HELP--?

WAIT! WE'VE BEEN TRICKED! THAT'S NO BIRD!

IT'S SUPERMAN!

GET BACK! GET--

SHRAKKK

WE WERE FOOLED BY A MIRAGE! SUPERMAN SAVED US--BUT HE HAS NO IDEA WHAT HE'S WADING INTO!

ARE WE GOING TO STAND BACK AND LET HIM BAT CLEANUP? I DON'T THINK SO!

COME ON!

SOMEBODY WANT TO FILL ME IN HERE?

NAME'S XOTAR. CALLS HIMSELF THE WEAPONS MASTER. SAYS HE COMES FROM 10,000 YEARS IN THE FUTURE.

HIS ARTILLERY WOULD SEEM TO BEAR THAT OUT. IT'S SUPREMELY ADVANCED.

AND FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO LET FALL INTO ANYONE ELSE'S HANDS.

WAIT! BE CAREFUL! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HALF THIS EQUIPMENT IS!

WE KNOW WHAT ALL OF IT IS. IT'S RUBBLE. STILL, STAND BACK IN CASE THERE'S ANY--

--BACKLASH--

WHAT THE--?

THAT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR BARRELING BLINDLY IN. WHY DID HE DO THAT?

HE'S FEARLESS.

THAT'S A PLUS.

MOST OF THE TIME.

IDIOTS! YOU MISTOOK MY ROBOT FOR A SIMPLE SHELL! IT HAS AN ARTIFICIAL LIFE OF ITS OWN--AND WHEN WOUNDED, DEFENDS ITSELF--

--WITH ANTIBODIES!

CLINGY LITTLE THINGS, THEY ARE--BUT THEY BURN OFF! MANHUNTER, YOU NEED AN ASSIST?

"--AS DO THE OTHERS! THE ANTIBODIES ARE NO MATCH FOR CANARY'S SONICS OR FLASH'S VIBRATIONS--

I HAVE MINE UNDER CONTROL--

"--AND WHILE LANTERN'S RING IS VULNERABLE TO THEIR YELLOW COLOR--

--TEAMWORK WILL BE HIS SALVATION!

THAT'S EVERYBODY BUT AQUAMAN! ANYBODY SEE HIM?

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.

HE'S NOT EXACTLY IN TROUBLE.

STAY AWAY FROM ME! I AM THE WEAPONS MASTER--THE GREATEST COMBATANT OF ONE HUNDRED CENTURNNGH--

THWAM!

JUDGING FROM THE LABELING, THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE A TIME-PORTER OF SOME SORT.

IF THAT'S WHAT'S KEEPING YOU IN OUR ERA, XOTAR-- GOOD RIDDANCE.

NO! I SHOULD HAVE WON! I SHOULD HAVE WONNNNN--!

SHOULDA, WOULDA, COULDA. THAT'S WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU MESS WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, CREEP.

RIGHT, LANTERN?

LANTERN...?

--AND OUR SECURITY SYSTEM INCORPORATES J'ONN'S MARTIAN TECHNOLOGY--

--WHILE THE LIBRARY IS COMPUTER ACCESSIBLE FROM ANY MONITOR IN THE HEADQUARTERS.

VERY IMPRESSIVE.

"IMPRESSIVE"? "IMPRESSIVE"? IS THAT ALL YOU CAN SAY?

CANARY, WHAT KINDA LUNKHEAD PHILISTINE IS SO SEVERELY UNDERAPPRECIATING THE GENIUS I'VE INVESTED INTO THIS HOLE IN THE...

...

WHOOPS.

WOW.

YOU'RE NO LUNKHEAD.

DON'T HURT ME.

SNAP

SNAP

I WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT.

HERE, SON. I BELIEVE YOU DROPPED THIS...

WELL?

WELL, WHAT?

AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK HIM TO JOIN?

OH, FOR...

ASK HIM! YOU'VE BEEN WANTING TO SINCE WE FIRST GOT TOGETHER! THIS IS YOUR MOMENT! GO!

VERY WELL. CAN... CAN I HAVE EVERYONE'S ATTENTION? THANK YOU.

AS YOU ALL KNOW, WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS... AND SUPERMAN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE EVEN MORE ASTOUNDING

IF WE WERE TO COMBINE FORCES, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT GOOD THE JLA COULD DO.

THAT SAID... I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE SUPERMAN FOR MEMBERSHIP.

I SECOND THE NOMINATION.

WHAT ABOUT IT, SUPERMAN? WILL YOU BE ONE OF US?

I... FLASH, I...

NO.

WHAT?

TO BE CONTINUED...